

# MEMORANDUM

TO: Commissioners, Commission on Affordable Health Care

FROM: Bill Lindsay, Chair

DATE: August 25, 2015

SUBJ: UPDATE ON COMMISSION ACTIVITIES

The following is intended as a communication piece to inform Commissioners of the work of the Commission that is occurring between meetings.

## Planning Committee Addition

I have added Elisabeth Arenales to the Planning Committee. Elisabeth was a member of the Research Committee as well as initially a member of the planning committee and I felt that her background would be useful to inform the agenda setting by the Planning Committee.

## Funding Requests

We successfully secured a \$15,000 grant from the Rose Community Foundation to support the Commission's ongoing work. We also have two other foundation grant requests pending. We hope to hear about the status of all of our funding requests by mid-September.

As you recall, these grants are intended to provide supplemental funding to allow the Commission to continue its vital work and to meet its legislative mandate through the end of the current (state) fiscal year.

We continue to explore strategies to secure funding for the third year of the Commission's work.

## Commission's Work Plan and Strategy

As we discussed at the last Commission meeting, we have prioritized the work of the Commission and decided to focus on those portions of SB 14-187 that we felt would have the greatest initial impact, and thus where we could focus our efforts between now and next June 30<sup>th</sup>. It was the consensus that doing so would enable us to demonstrate to the General Assembly and Governor our dedication to the legislative charge they gave us. (This list has been disseminated to you under separate cover.)

The Commissioners also noted that great work is underway by members who had served on the Research Committee and thus those nine topic areas (e.g., Transparency, Workforce, Social Determinants of Health, etc.) would continue in parallel to the focus areas identified above. In fact, where possible we will attempt to weave the legislative priorities into each of these broader topical discussions since they are certainly related.

## Meeting Format

Now that we are meeting twice a month, we will use the first meeting of each month to introduce a topic area and to provide Commissioners essential background. We will then use the second meeting each month to process this background and seek to drive to consensus on the topic at hand. Staff then records the Commission's decisions and provides members with a list as a reminder of what has been decided.

We will also maintain a list of pending items in a “Parking Lot” list. These will be items that we did not have time to fully explore, but where there was interest. It will also include items where adequate consensus was not achieved but where those thoughts would not be forgotten, or pushed to the side. It is our intent to include the Parking Lot list in our final report so that the reader can be informed of other opportunities which may be worth exploring later.

#### November Report

A draft outline of the topic areas for the November Report to the General Assembly has been distributed with the meeting materials for this next Commission meeting. Please review the outline to see if you have any ideas or questions about it. It is important to note that this is only an outline at this point. Additional information and topics will be added, as our work continues. Commissioner also will be provided with a more complete draft when it is available.

#### Legislative Outreach

Specific Commissioners have been enlisted to assist efforts to reach out to our legislative leaders to ensure that solid lines of communication exist, and they know about the work of the Commission.

Please direct any questions or comments regarding this Memorandum to me.